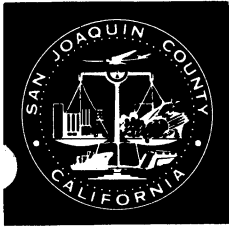


(received 3/14/2000)



SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

FLOOD CONTROL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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TELEPHONE (209) 468-3000
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HENRY M. HIRATA
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
FLOOD CONTROL ENGINEER

March 8, 2000

Mr. Paul Dabbs, Supervisor Engineer
Statewide Planning Branch
Department of Water Resources
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, California 94236-0001

SUBJECT: BULLETIN 160-2003, THE CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN UPDATE

Dear Mr. Dabbs:

The San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District requests that the following issues be included in the January 2003 draft of the California Water Plan Update:

1. Bulletin 160-2003 must address and use the safe yield for basins suffering quality problems when determining long-term supplies and basin overdraft parameters.

The California Water Plan uses perennial yield rather than safe yield to define long-term groundwater basin yield. In San Joaquin County, poor quality water is moving eastward based on chloride concentration measurements and groundwater basin models. The result is a slow degradation of groundwater quality and a reduction in the amount of usable water supply within the basin. The pollution of the groundwater basin will continue under present, or even somewhat higher, groundwater levels. Use of perennial yield to define critically over-drafted basin masks the effect of groundwater quality degradation and subsequent reduction in supply.

2. Bulletin 160-2003 must include issues of groundwater and surface water (water demand and supplies) that will not benefit one region over another and impact other California Regions. In balancing water use on a Statewide basis, especially for San Joaquin Region, San Joaquin County is keenly aware of the area of origin principles and the Delta Protection statutes.
3. Bulletin 160-2003 must include the increase acreage and production of field crops, especially for vineyards and vegetable crops in the evaluation of water demands for San Joaquin County.

The crop data from the County Agricultural Commissioner's Report indicated that the acreage and production of field crops have increased tremendously. In the last five years within San Joaquin County, the acreage for vineyards has doubled, and for vegetables has increased by 25 percent. The crops per acreage increased from 66,400 to 86,100 and 33,600 to 63,810 for vegetables and vineyards, respectively. These additional crops require additional applied water and would cause an increase in water demand.

Mr. Paul Dabbs
BULLETIN 160-2003, THE CALIFORNIA
WATER PLAN UPDATE

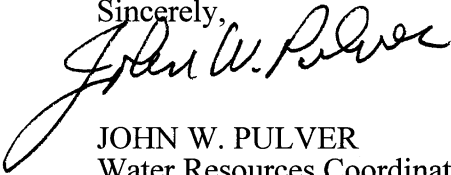
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4. Bulletin 160-2003 must include Groundwater/Conjunctive Use option for the East Bay Municipal Utility District/San Joaquin County Conjunctive Use that has been deferred due to undefined yields.

There is a high potential to augment water supply for the San Joaquin River region. From this project, in fact, there is currently a demonstration in project that will define the feasible quantities of water supply that can be made available from the program. Therefore, the groundwater/conjunctive use option should be retained since the program will benefit both San Joaquin County and the coastal regions of California, and is well on the way to being implemented in the near future.

If there is further clarification required regarding these comments, please contact me at (209) 468- 3089.

Sincerely,



JOHN W. PULVER
Water Resources Coordinator

JWP:MNS:tee

WR-0C033-E1

c: Board of Supervisors
Henry M. Hirata, Director of Public Works